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Penguin CSI: Forensic Science Club

Taylor Phillips
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER

The Forensic Science Club, which has been active at Youngstown State University for five years, wants to enrich students' knowledge of forensic science and help students network with other like-minded individuals.

Anna Mancini, the club's president, said the group's members share a passion for forensic science.

"You get to talk with older students about class choices and build friendships to last a lifetime," she said.

From Feb. 14 to 23, club members attended the American Academy of Forensic Sciences' conference in Washington, D.C.

"Much of the conference was spent talking about the continuing education of high school and university students on ethics, proper protocols in the lab and oversight sessions," said Susan Clutter, FSC adviser.

Besides discussing issues in forensics, the club also participates in several charitable and fundraising events like the YSU Relay for Life and food drives, said Travis Battiest, a graduate assistant.

"FSC also provides support



The Forensic Science Club shows students at Austintown Fitch High School how to fingerprint. Photo courtesy of Anna Mancini.

during Crash Day and other demonstration days for the criminal justice and forensic sciences department," Battiest said.

The club also organizes school visits, during which area high school students "investigate" what the forensic science program at YSU has

to offer.

"The students, both for Crash Day and school visits, got to take part in our crime scene condo, where they got to see a mock crime scene," Mancini said. "They also took part in fingerprinting and had the opportunity to use the microscope to view trace evi-

dence."

The club is open to all majors, Mancini said.

"When I was a freshman, I was hesitant to join, thinking I did not have enough time, or the meetings were always when I had class, but everyone has been wonderful and very accommodating," she said.

On April 12, FSC members will be hosting a fundraiser during the Youngstown Phantoms game; proceeds will go toward forensic pathologist Cyril Wecht's presentation at YSU on April 30.

For more information, email forensicscienceclub@ysu@gmail.com.

YSU PD unveils idea for cutting edge security app

Codie Talley
REPORTER

The Youngstown State University Police Department recently unveiled plans to go high-tech in protecting campus.

The department will choose one of three apps that can pinpoint a student's location and connect him or her to YSU Police dispatch. The three apps under consideration are Guardly, LifeLine and EmergenSee.

YSU Police Chief John Beshara said each one brings something a little different.

"We want to know which one will be the best down the line. These things have one- to two-year contracts so that you can get out if something new comes along. The scary part of this is how fast technology moves. A year in technology time is a long time," Beshara said.

Beshara said he is seeking input from different on- and off-campus agencies to help him decide.

"Our mission is safety for students, faculty and the surrounding

community," Beshara said.

Officer Adam Guerrieri gave a preview of the Guardly app, which compiles all of a user's information into a biography. This biography then goes into a database.

Guardly has a geofence around campus, which covers areas from Wick Park all the way down to the bridge on Fifth Avenue. From there, a user can open up the app on his or her phone, and it will give a 10-second countdown. After the countdown, it will send a signal to the dispatcher. The user's biography and general location will then pop up on the screen.

If a user is unable to communicate, he or she can text the dispatcher with the app, as well as take photos and even send out a security whistle.

"This is great, cutting edge technology. It will increase security for everyone. As a parent, the cost for this is minimal," said Mike Cretella, deputy chief.

However, there have been flaws noted in the technology.

"The only limit is the GPS technology. It is not always pinpoint accurate," Guerrieri said.

LifeLine and EmergenSee were not available for preview, but Ohio

State University is giving LifeLine a trial run in a couple of weeks.

"Each one has different things that make them different. The cost is also workable," Beshara said.

While the apps are free to download, a service cost comes along with it. The annual fee to run one of these apps would be somewhere between \$20,000 and \$50,000.

Beshara said that it all comes down to funding to afford this technology. He did offer some ideas on how to fund it, though.

"We could have the university cover it as a whole, or we could put something in place where if roughly 6,500 people use it and pay \$1.99 per semester, that would cover the cost," Beshara said. "The best way to fund it, though, would be to have roughly 3,675 people, with the main group being students, use it and add it onto tuition. It would add \$3.96 a year to your bill, and that number would decrease if more people were to use the app."

Another idea that Beshara had would be to charge faculty and administrators 4.99 annually to use the app, since some of them are here during the summer as well.



GRAPHIC BY KEELEY BLACKBURN/JAMBAR

March turns 'history' into 'her-story'

Frank George REPORTER

In honor of Women's History Month, Diana Palardy, director of women's studies, is prepared to celebrate with speakers, film screenings and panel discussions.

This year's keynote speaker is Marge Piercy. She will discuss her poetry and fiction at 7 p.m. on March 21 in Beeghly Hall's McKay Auditorium. Palardy described Piercy as "an amazing poet and an extremely prolific writer."

"She's a really big figure in the feminist movement, and she has written poems that have shown up in all the anthologies of women's studies," Palardy said.

Both Piercy and Palardy stressed the importance of women's history.

"In general, Americans lack any sense of history," Piercy wrote in an email. "That means we have no idea how we got where we are, so if we want something to change, we lack the knowledge of how people changed things in the past and what didn't work. We don't know where we came from. We don't know who did what to who."

Palardy added that Women's History Month is a time to remember women of the past and the present.

"Before, I always used to think [Women's History Month] was just about history," Palardy said. "But I think it has to do with both history and the way that women are currently making history — history in the present, so to speak."

Joanie Cleckner, a third-year information technology major, is enrolled in Palardy's Introduction to Women's Studies course. She feels that March is a time to remember the suffragettes.

"When I was growing up, history was filled with men. I never learned about Alice Paul, Rosa Parks or Susan B. Anthony," Cleckner said. "We have to be grateful for these women and what they've done for us."

Palardy said she feels that female students and faculty still face issues unique to women.

"Students are driven by issues related to women in the media, pay and equity, and issues related to body image, rape, domestic violence and verbal abuse," Palardy said. "The population of women as a whole sometimes recognizes different issues. Issues of reproductive rights is a really, really big one right now."

Inaccessible contraception, ageism and unequal representation in the government are also issues that remain pertinent to women, Piercy said.

Speakers, film screenings and panel discussions will tackle some of these issues.

Palardy called Women's History Month "interdisciplinary," adding that she believes students and faculty from various departments can get interested in this year's events.

Bradley Dubos, a second-year English education major, said he hopes to hear Piercy speak.

"I aspire to have my own writing published someday. So, I look forward to hearing Piercy's presentation to see what I can learn from her," he said. "I'm sure it will be an insightful event."

Advertisement for 'First in their class' featuring a quiz about women's history. Includes title 'First in their class', author 'By Ken Ossi / McClatchy/Tribune', and a list of 25 multiple-choice questions with answers. Questions cover topics like the first women's rights convention, the National Women's Suffrage Association, Jeannette Rankin, and various female pioneers in science, sports, and industry. Includes small portraits of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Oprah Winfrey, and Amelia Earhart.

Courtesy of MCT.

Universities reach out with upscale dorms

Amy S. Rosenberg THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER (MCT)

Drexel touts upscale furniture, double beds, privacy walls, full kitchens, high-definition golf simulators and, soon, a nearby Shake Shack.

Temple touts low student-to-bathroom ratios and lounges that create two-floor gathering spots with high ceilings, big views and 70-inch screens.

But behind both loaded dormitory towers now being built for students drawn to these popular urban schools — and for their demanding parents — is a common goal: an ingathering from the neighborhoods, a reinjection of residential life on campus.

"These are schools whose time has come," said Bob Francis, Drexel University's vice president of university facilities. "We're trying to unburden the residential communities around us."

"Urban schools are hot, cities are hot," said Jim Crendon, his counterpart at Temple University, where a 27-floor tower is under construction on Broad Street near Cecil B. Moore Avenue. "Students want to live a certain way. Neighbors are clear they don't want Temple to grow out."

At colleges across the Philadelphia region, administrators are rushing to keep up with the dorm race, including Haverford College, with dorms designed by the architects who designed the Barnes Foundation; Franklin and Marshall College, with its New College House; and vast upgrades at Villanova and

Shippensburg universities.

But at the buzzed-about urban schools, a national trend that has put schools like Northeastern University in Boston and Drexel atop many prospective students' college lists, the trend is clear.

High (in the sky) and on campus.

Towering above them all, at 33 stories, is the Grove at Cira South on Chestnut Street, a privately developed high-rise that will cater to students from both the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel. It is being built by Brandywine Realty Trust and Charlotte, N.C.-based Crest Campus Communities Inc., reflecting another trend: private companies doing near-campus student housing. Single rooms will start at \$1,300 a month, with rooftop pool and fitness club amenities.

"It happened with bookstores and food services," Drexel's Francis said. "There are parts of universities that are not core operations that other people do better."

The 19-story Drexel dormitory tower, plus its two eight-story mid-rises, at 32nd and Chestnut streets will be part of a total reimagining of Chestnut from the river to 40th Street, he said, with new facades bringing retail out to the street to create a more dense, pedestrian-oriented city space.

It will also, Francis noted, contribute to the ongoing mission of "de-orange-ifying" Drexel — where a mid-century construction boom of low-cost orange brick gave the campus an aesthetically dubious you've-left-Penn branding.

"You're making the city

walkable, livable," he said. "It was a suburban setback. Now, suddenly, you give it urban rhythm, character, and feel."

At Drexel, where applications jumped 8 percent last year to 41,209 and are expected to exceed that this year, about 4,600 of 14,500 undergraduates currently live on campus.

Drexel's Powelton Village neighbors have long complained about students filling up multi-bedroom Victorians, and administrators are now requiring sophomores to live in university-affiliated housing.

Francis said the surrounding neighborhood has seen a decline in owner-occupied housing to about 14 percent. In recent years, the city has sent inspectors to issue violations at houses with more than three unrelated people. (City code forbids more than that.)

The romance of the old, wild off-campus Victorian with the rickety porch filled with empty kegs may be something both students and neighbors would rather be done with.

Francis said the 850 beds in the new dormitories on Chestnut Street were leased out within two months, at per-student costs ranging from \$792 a month (in 12 monthly installments) for a two-bedroom, two-bathroom for four students to \$992 a month for two private bedrooms and a bathroom.

The total cost of the Chestnut Square apartments, done in conjunction with American Campus Communities, is \$97.6 million — which works out to about \$113,500 per student.

Journalism legend to visit Youngstown in April

Taylor Phillips ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER

On April 4, Youngstown State University's Office of Alumni and Events Management, along with the Skeggs Lecture Series, will welcome Bob Woodward, a Pulitzer Prize-winning political journalist, to Stambaugh Auditorium.

In 1972, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, both of The Washington Post, broke the story about the Watergate scandal within the Nixon administration. Since then, Woodward has served as an associate editor at The Washington Post. He has also written 17 books, and has won two Pulitzer Prizes and nearly every American journalism award.

Jacquelyn LeViseur, director of YSU's Office of Alumni and Events Management, said the university is fortunate to have Woodward visit the area.

"He is a world-renowned investigative reporter, and we are very excited to have him speak," she said.

Veronica Wesley, a senior communications major, said she hopes to attend the lecture.

"I am interested to hear what he has to say because he is the man behind the scandals," Wesley said. "I'd also like to hear more about his story and what he has to say."

Woodward will be lecturing on his new book, "The Price of Politics," which is about the Obama administration. He will also be doing a Q-and-A session after the

lecture.

Tickets will be available March 25, 26 and 27 at the information desk in Kilcawley Center. The tickets are free to the general public, and guests are allowed up to four tickets.

"Stambaugh seats about 2,300 people, and we hope to fill the auditorium," LeViseur said. "We expect them to run out."

The actual lecture will begin at 7:30 p.m., but a closed student lecture will be held at 5 p.m.

"The closed lecture will offer a once-in-a-lifetime experience for some of the students in journalism and communications," LeViseur said. "They will really learn and interact from this professional in a field that they are seeking to have a career in."

Rebekah Tedde, a junior communications major, thinks that bringing Woodward to YSU is a good move.

"It's great to bring in top-notch people such as Mr. Woodward to talk," Tedde said. "Bringing him in shows journalism and communication students that you always start from the bottom, but can work your way up in your career."

The YSU Office of Alumni and Events Management will also partner up with Barnes & Noble to sell Woodward's books before and after the lecture.

LeViseur also said Woodward has graciously agreed to stick around and sign books after the lecture.

For more information on Woodward's lecture and tickets, contact the YSU Office of Alumni and Events Management at 330-941-3497.

YSU Police take the offensive against shooters

Justin Carissimo
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Youngstown State University police officers attended training to take the offensive against potential threats on campus.

The single officer response to an active shooter training took place inside the former Immaculate Conception School building on Youngstown's East Side. The exercises were hosted by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy. Eight out of 60 officers participating were members of the YSU Police Department.

YSU Police Chief John Beshara was one of the eight officers to suit up and participate in the live "simunition," which uses small paint rounds that are similar to paintballs.

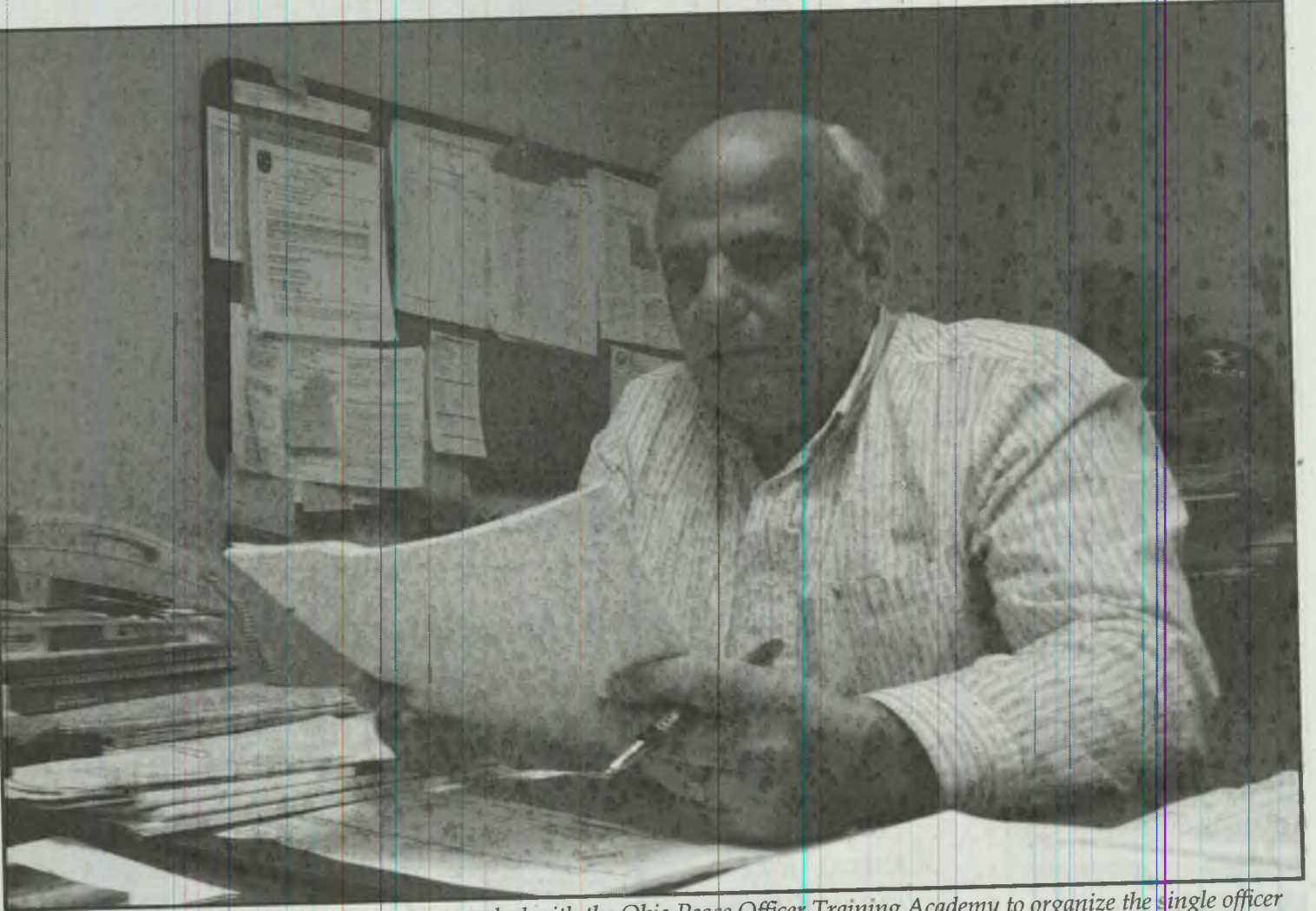
"Simunition is as close to being in a real shootout as you can be. We don't want to go into these types of situations and not know how to deal with it," Beshara said.

Lt. Brian Remias also participated in the instruction, adding that his time at the active shooter practice was informative and productive.

Adding to the austerity of the drills, Remias said that being hit with training rounds was much more painful than being hit with a paintball.

"It's not a good feeling at all," Remias said.

During the exercise, law enforcement officers learned tactics on how to prevent



Mike Cretella of the YSU Police Department worked with the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy to organize the single officer response to an active shooter training for campus security. Photo by Chris Cotelesse/The Jambar.

violence if they were to arrive at a scene alone and how to respond against potential threats. Officers sported helmets, vests, and groin and neck protection to simulate school shooting scenarios.

"We would act out real scenarios when a bad guy would shoot and officers would re-

spond to a specific area. If the person continued to shoot, you would have to take them down," Beshara said.

Beshara said that members of law enforcement have been revising the way they respond to potential threats since the shootings at Columbine High School in 1999.

"Data shows that these types of incidents last about five to seven minutes. We want to deal with each situation as quickly as possible and by whatever legal force necessary," Beshara said.

Since the Columbine tragedy, there have been 31 school shootings across the U.S., in-

cluding 262 and taking the lives of 226.

"There have been recent situations taking place just off of campus, but YSU's campus is definitely a safe area for students," Remias said. "We never want to have a situation like this happen, but we need to prepare for the worst."

The YO* Magazine

Are you a writer, designer or photographer looking to contribute to an award-winning regional arts and culture magazine?

If so, The Yo* Magazine, a subdivision of The Jambar, welcomes your involvement — and involvement from all YSU students, faculty and staff.

A meeting to discuss this semester's issue of The Yo* Magazine will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, March 1, in the basement computer lab of Fedor Hall.

For more information, email yomagazineysu@gmail.com, or call 330-941-1991.

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NEWS BRIEFS

New gerontology master's takes interdisciplinary approach

Beginning in the fall, YSU will offer a new master's degree program in gerontology to address the growing needs of the increasing elderly population in the U.S. The program, the only one of its kind in the region, will enroll up to 12 students per year, and it will include evening, online and hybrid courses. It is aimed toward those who are interested in pursuing research-related careers in gerontology or advancing in the gerontology field. For more information, contact Daniel Van Dussen at 330-941-1683 or djvandussen@ysu.edu.

WCBA holds Career Week

This week, the Williamson College of Business Administration will host its Career Week in the Williamson Hall atrium. Career Week, which will run through Friday, features various career workshops and panel discussions with business alumni. For a complete schedule of events, visit the WCBA website at <http://web.ysu.edu/wcba>.

'Homework Express' takes second in national competition

The Broadcast Education Association recently honored YSU's "Homework Express," a call-in homework help TV show that is aired live from the Bliss Hall television studios. The Dec. 6 episode of the show placed second in BEA's national competition; subsequently, it will be featured at the international BEA Festival of Media Arts, which will be held in Las Vegas from April 7 to 10. The program competed against colleges from around the country, including Kent State University, Ithaca College and San Francisco State University. "Homework Express," which is produced by students in YSU's telecommunications studies program and is now in its eighth season, has been nominated twice for an Emmy Award.

POLICE BRIEFS

Janitor discovers eyeglasses in Beeghly Center

After the men's basketball game at Beeghly Center on Feb. 17, a 68-year-old male janitor told YSU Police he'd found a pair of Ralph Lauren eyeglasses that a spectator had left behind. The property was tagged and placed in the police station's found property room.

Student falls, hits head in Cushwa

Around 11 a.m. on Feb. 19, YSU Police received a call from a dental hygiene instructor, who reported that a 21-year-old female student had passed out in a first floor room of Cushwa Hall. The student had hit her head on the floor, but did not seem to be visibly injured. An ambulance arrived at the building and transported the student to St. Elizabeth Boardman Health Center.

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'Love music' En-Gage-d to the arts

Cassandra Twoey
COPY EDITOR

As a boy, Stephen Gage would go with his mother every year to the local Fourth of July parade, where he would watch the bands play. When the teachers went around asking all the children what instrument they would like to play, Stephen Gage said drums.

And they let him play. It was the first time Stephen Gage played an instrument, and it sparked a lifelong passion for music.

"You fall in love with things like this. The great thing about performing arts is that there's a humanness to them," he said.

Stephen Gage grew up with his mother and two brothers in the small town of Perry, N.Y., right outside of Rochester. His love for music followed him into his collegiate years. He applied to the State University of New York at Fredonia in hopes of becoming a professional musician.

During his first semester at Fredonia, there were 16 percussion majors, as well as a sense of confidence and ego among them, he said.

"I quickly realized that by no means was I the best percussionist there. And that if I was going to end up being that, I would have to work really hard," he said.

Throughout his time at Fredonia, Stephen Gage's love for music changed. He went from wanting to play drums in a jazz band to falling in love with concert and classical music.

Stephen Gage was first introduced to the sound of Youngstown State University when Michael Crist, director of the Dana School of Music, brought the YSU Jazz Ensemble to a jazz event in central New York in 1988.

Stephen Gage and Crist knew each other through mutual friends. So, during a trip from Illinois to see his eldest son in New York, Stephen Gage and his wife, Stephanie, stayed at an inn near YSU.

During their trip, Stephen Gage spent time with the music students at YSU.

After he worked with the students for half an hour, he knew YSU was the right place for him.

"I could just tell that the kind of students at YSU were the kind of students I wanted to be around," he said.

On their drive back to Illinois, Stephen and Stephanie Gage decided that they would move to Youngstown. They settled in Poland, where they still live with two of their three children.

In 1993, Stephen Gage applied for the vacant director of bands position left by



Stephen Gage, director of bands at YSU, practices with his students on Feb. 21 for an upcoming concert. Photo by Cassandra Twoey/The Jambar.

Leslie Hicken, and he's been at YSU ever since.

He and Crist had known of each other many years before Stephen Gage came to YSU. They had both worked in public schools in upstate New York, and their paths had crossed indirectly, Crist said, but they had never actually met until Stephen Gage applied for the job.

"He keeps throwing this back at me, but when he applied for the job here, he looked at me and said, 'What would you like me to do?' and I said, 'Steve, the best thing you can do is have the absolute best band program you can make with what we have.' And I think that's probably the most significant contribution he made here," Crist said.

Throughout his 20 years at YSU, Stephen Gage has been inducted into American Bandmasters, has published multiple articles on different conducting techniques and other band literature, and has guest conducted in more than 30 states.

In 2005, Stephen Gage and the YSU Wind Ensemble traveled to New York and played at Carnegie Hall. He said that this is one of his most prized memories.

"I remember walking through the

doors, and these 50-some-odd students bringing their instruments and sitting in this famous concert hall in the middle of Manhattan," he said. "And I turned around to bow after the first song, and I saw all these people out there. It was surreal."

Stephen Gage has high expectations for himself and his students. He said he believes that if we don't have people around us to push us to our potential, we need to find new people to be around.

"It's always a little paddling, but still with a hug at the same time," Crist said. "He's not a mean person, not a vindictive person, but when you're not doing the right thing, he'll let you know. And then, the next time he sees you, he'll give you a hug."

DJ Colella, a junior majoring in music education, recalled Stephen Gage's tough love with a smile and a laugh.

Colella, who plays the euphonium, said that his favorite memory of Stephen Gage was during Stambaugh Youth Concert Band. He said the band was doing a piece by Gustav Holst that had a euphonium solo in it.

"We practiced that every week. And every week after we got done with the solo, he would stop and go, 'DJ, this note

was out of tune; this note was out of tune; this note wasn't good," Colella said. "He'd break it down and make me want to eat my mouthpiece every week and go home. But by the time the concert came, it's probably one of the best solos I've ever done."

Stephen Gage said he has a mindset called "be the music." He said that if he's going to conduct a piece, "you have to go there." He takes the time to study the music and the composer in depth so he is able to convey what he believes the composer wants to convey.

"[He's] very passionate. He believes in what he knows. Cares about it. And committed," Stephanie Gage said. "He'll do what he has to do. He'll do what he has to do to learn the music himself, and he'll do what he has to do to teach the music."

One of the things Stephen Gage said he loves about his job is that he gets to work with the same students daily and build relationships with them. Stephen Gage is also the conductor of the Youngstown Symphony Youth Orchestra and the Stambaugh Youth Concert Band, which allows him to build relationships starting in students' freshman year of high school.

"I love the kids. And I don't mean that in anything but the truest sense," Stephen Gage said. "I respect them. I listen to them. I care deeply about them."

Crist said that Stephen Gage has a way of connecting with students through things other than just music, and said that his love of music is infectious.

"As a matter of fact, there's some T-shirts going around that has his face on it and says, 'Love music,'" Crist said.

Colella said Stephen Gage was one of the main reasons he chose YSU for music school, adding that he's the reason Colella wants to teach at the collegiate level.

"I definitely view him as an inspiration, and, actually, even though his personality and my personality — we're incredibly different — I definitely view him as a role model as how to be a good person," Colella said. "Everything he does, he tries to be the best kind of person he can be."

Stephen Gage said he can't ever see himself not doing something with music, and that he is always looking for opportunities to grow in his field.

"I don't know except for the birth of my three children, my wedding day with Stephanie and some very special days that we've had since then, I've never had anything else touch me and my soul the way music has done," he said. "So, to get to do this for over 30 years has been unbelievable for me."

Making her mark

A tale of a student turning her life

Marissa McIntyre
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

Roberta Cykon shows up to class with a smile on her face, easily making friends with her younger classmates. Some of them even refer to the nontraditional student as "mom."

But by talking to Roberta Cykon for five minutes, you wouldn't know that her smile comes from being raised in a dysfunctional atmosphere.

After years filled with anorexia, promiscuity and anger toward those who'd hurt her, today she is living with the purpose of making a difference in others' lives.

"I needed to go through those experiences to help those who are going through it today," Roberta Cykon said.

She has goals in her life, and one was to get the Trumbull County Community Star Award. Just before she turns 40, she'll be receiving the award for the community service she's done.

Melanie Jones, Roberta Cykon's mentor, is one member of the Trumbull County community who nominated her for the award.

Roberta Cykon met Jones a year ago and helps with her Girl Scout troop.

"I nominated her because of all the hard work she does," Jones said. "She does it all from her heart and expects nothing in return."

Roberta Cykon said that before she receives her award, she'll stand in front of everyone and thank God. Then, she'll say,



Nontraditional student Roberta Cykon is receiving the Trumbull County Community Star Award for her volunteer work. She volunteers as a way to share her stories and help. Photo courtesy of Roberta Cykon.

"If I ever hurt anyone here today, I would like to ask for your forgiveness."

She'll do so with the hope that those from her past will forgive her, as she admitted to manipulating people's feelings so they would feel the same pain that she did.

"It hurts when I think about how many people I've hurt," Roberta Cykon said.

A turning point in her life was when her grandmother died in 2005.

"I realized that I would be in that situation someday. It's unavoidable. I started thinking who would be there for me. Would I have people holding me, or would I have a line of people waiting to piss on my grave?" Roberta Cykon said.

Roberta Cykon's mother, Evelyn Rogers, said her daughter doesn't need to worry.

"Roberta, you've done a good job and are one of God's people. There is a special place in heaven for you, and a lot of

people are going to miss you," Rogers said.

Rogers' life wasn't without complications.

When Roberta Cykon was 15 years old, Rogers attempted suicide.

Roberta Cykon said she remembers coming home that day and seeing a note on the table. She wandered around the house feeling confused.

She was using the bathroom when she realized that her mother was dying.

"This is the God honest truth. I heard plain as day, 'Roberta, what are you doing? Your mother is dying,'" Roberta Cykon said.

Roberta Cykon said this was the first time she came into contact with the Holy Spirit.

"It's a shame what she went through. I had wanted my husband to find me instead of her," Rogers said. "If it wasn't for my daughter, I wouldn't be here."

Rogers died six times in the ambulance on the way to the hospital.

Shortly after, Roberta Cykon went to children services.

Another turning point in her life was when she gave birth to her son, Brandon Piros.

"I consider him my angel. If it wasn't for my son, I would be dead right now," Roberta Cykon said.

The guilt of cheating on her ex-husband, which caused him to leave her and raise Piros alone, weighs on Roberta Cykon.

"I feel bad for what he went through. I always say sorry for not being able to give him a family where both parents are together," Roberta Cykon said.

Piros said he always assures his mom to not worry about it.

"She's kind of been my mom and dad. I tell her not to worry about it. My life was normal for me having one mom," Piros said.

Roberta Cykon was able to give Piros a stepfather on Aug. 11, 2004.

Roberta Cykon said she stopped being promiscuous when she reconnected with her husband, Mike Cykon.

She admitted to sleeping with more than 200 men as a way to feel loved.

Before dating her current husband, she told him, "You can't handle me."

"I just tried to prove to her that I could handle her," Mike Cykon said.

The two attended junior high school together, and Mike Cykon didn't remember Roberta Cykon in a negative way.

"When we reconnected; it was great to find someone from my past that I thought highly of. In school, she always made a point to talk to kids that maybe some people wouldn't talk to," Mike Cykon said.

He said her past didn't matter to him.

"Everyone has their own past. We all have skeletons in the closet," Mike Cykon said. "She's one of the most caring people I've ever met. She's even kind to strangers."

Roberta Cykon said her motto for this year is "Roberta Michelle Cykon. Established: 1973. Reinvented: 2005."

"It's going to be my year. I'm one person away from my miracle," Roberta Cykon said.

Hang in there, Youngstown. You're all right.

Youngstown has a certain appeal that you just can't understand unless you love this city to the bone.

The erudite and articulate writers at Forbes.com listed Youngstown as one of America's most miserable cities last week.

Apparently, we're not as miserable as New York City or Detroit, but the magazine doesn't think highly of the Yo, citing a 20-year net migration of residents from the city.

Forget that!

Youngstown is rich in culture if not in economic opportunities. A lot of people look at the soot-covered buildings and think "grimy."

We see gritty, tough, colorful, real. This city has a deep history and a resilient nature that won't let even industrial ruin damper its spirits.

If Youngstown were a guy at a bar, you'd all want to hang out with him.

He'd be the tough-guy badass at the counter, entertaining a crowd with stories of adventures that richer cities wouldn't understand.

He'd lean closer to you with a scotch on the rocks and a glimmer in his eye.

"I was down and out," he'd say. "No one thought I'd survive. I was hemorrhaging jobs and money so fast I couldn't count it."

"Really?" you'd swoon (you know you would). "Then what?"

"I took a moment to grieve and decided I was too damn stubborn to let that kill me," he'd say.

He'd wear his scars with pride, and invite you back to his place to listen to some Bruce Springsteen.

"He wrote this song about me, you know."

But once you got past the grizzled exterior, you'd find a cultured gentleman. He'd take you to the Youngstown Symphony or perhaps an art show at the B&O featuring some of his most rustic artists and artisans.

And for dinner, he'd cook you a plate of ribs served with a "cup of love."

He'd talk about all the famous people he knew: Jim Traficant, the Warner Brothers, Al f--ing Bundy.

He's no one-trick pony either.

He'd take you on long walks in Mill Creek Park or a day of bargain hunting at Four Seasons (Campbell is close enough).

OK, so he has a downside too. He's a little too quick to latch on to any opportunity, and then he breaks down when it falls apart.

"The blimps were supposed to save us all," he'd cry.

But he'll pull himself together in time to face the next challenge, because that's his only option. He's got too much life in him to give up on a fight. He'd rather be broken than beaten.

If you need any more evidence that Youngstown is more than it's cracked up to be, listen to these wise words from the author of the second-greatest song about this city:

"Seasons come and seasons go for progress we've both found. [He] may be running a little low, but nothing's gonna keep [him] down."

JAMBAR POLICY

Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published twice weekly during the fall and spring semesters and weekly during the first summer session. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. The first copy of The Jambar is free. Additional copies of The Jambar are \$1 each.

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The editorial board that writes Our Side editorials consists of the editor-in-chief, the managing editor and the senior copy editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles. They draw on the opinions of the entire writing staff and do not reflect the opinions of any individual staff member. The Jambar's business manager and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

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The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Submissions are welcome at thejambar@gmail.com or by following the "Submit a Letter" link on thejambar.com. Letters should concern campus issues, must be typed and must not exceed 500 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification, along with the writer's city of residence for printing. The Jambar does not withhold the names of guest commentators. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. Letters will not be rejected based on the views expressed in them. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries and letters if they are not relevant to our readers, seek free publicity, fail to defend opinion with facts from reliable sources or if the editorial staff decides that the subject has been sufficiently aired. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitting writer based on these requirements. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The views and opinions expressed in letters and commentaries on the opinion page do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of YSU.



The views of this artist do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar.

More job-seekers, employers using Facebook connections to fill vacancies

Gracie Bonds Staples
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
(MCT)

His senior year at Clark Atlanta University was quickly approaching, and Kareem Taylor was starting to worry about his future.

Would he be able to land a job as a voice actor or would he end up back home with his parents like so many other college graduates? Better still, how could he let people know he had "the" voice? Not having prior experience or a network to draw from, Taylor turned to the only contacts he had readily available to him, his Facebook friends.

"I decided to post a demo on Facebook, asking people to share it with their friends," Taylor said recently.

In that moment, Taylor joined an ever-growing number of college students and employers who are using social media networks in the search for jobs and job candidates.

In fact, according to a 2012 Future Trends Survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, 90.7 percent of respondents used Facebook in their job search.

Given the near-universal status of Facebook, which recently announced the launch of Graph Search to enhance users' ability to navigate their connections, the study said, "it is expected that if a student were to think of using a social network in the job search, that student would first turn to the base social networking platform to see what it offered." Students

are also turning to LinkedIn (40 percent) and Twitter (about 35 percent).

LinkedIn, as a business networking platform, is clearly challenging Facebook for pre-eminent status among students as the networking platform to communicate with potential employers," the study said.

Although nearly 66 percent of LinkedIn users felt that the service was effective compared to less than a quarter of users of other networking platforms, Taylor credits Facebook for helping him land employment with CNN.

Once he posted his demo on his Facebook page, Taylor said it caught the attention of CNN producer Danya Levine, who was already a Facebook friend. Levine invited him to the station, where he met her team.

"The head honcho said, 'Let's hear something,'" Taylor recalled. "I did something about CNN, and the whole room applauded." For the next few weeks, Taylor shadowed members of Levine's team, editing tapes, meeting producers and learning everything at his disposal about the voice-over industry.

Meanwhile, Taylor continued his job search, but "no one was calling me back," he said.

Then just months before graduation in August 2010, he got the call he'd been waiting for.

"Congratulations, you're the voice of 'CNN Heroes,'" Levine told him.

"I was ecstatic," Taylor said. "I'm so blessed to have this opportunity. It was a huge turning point." Since then, Taylor has worked on the productions "Black in America" and "Pictures Don't Lie." Today, at 24, he's one of the youngest and most

successful professional voice actors, with clients including Comedy Central, Taco Bell and AT&T.

Shonda Cooper, lead promotions producer for CNN's "Black in America" documentary, couldn't say how often the television network uses social networking sites in its hiring.

She said, however, that Taylor "came highly regarded by colleagues at 'CNN Heroes.'" "He made a positive impression on all of us," Cooper said. "In addition to having a really good, deep, persuasive voice, he takes directions well." Taylor has been the voice of "Black in America" for the past two years, Cooper said.

With its new Graph Search, which is being rolled out in waves, officials at Facebook are hoping to make it even easier for users to find the right job match. Graph Search, they say, promises not only to help you find others but to learn more about them and make connections instantly.

With this feature, users will be able to narrow their search to something as specific as "friends of my friends who work in the restaurant industry" or "my friends in Los Angeles who are looking for baby sitters" or "people/my friends who are reporters and live in Seattle." Although Graph Search hadn't launched when Taylor began his job search, he said Facebook clearly helped him get noticed.

Soon after CNN hired him, Taylor said his agent "dragged me to New York," where he records from home then emails the file to his boss.

"A day later," he said, "those promos start airing on CNN, and my mom will call and ask if that's me she's hearing."

Florida university suspends most fraternity, sorority activities

Denise-Marie Ordway
Orlando Sentinel
(MCT)

The University of Central Florida has shut down most fraternity and sorority activities as it investigates two Greek organizations for alleged hazing and alcohol abuse.

It's the first time that the state's largest public university has taken such drastic action. But officials said they wanted to send the clear message that UCF's Greek culture needs to change before things turn tragic.

University officials announced Wednesday that they have halted all fraternity and sorority social events, new-member education activities and initiation activities until "Greek culture reflects the values of the UCF Creed and, more importantly, that we can ensure compliance with laws and university regulations governing hazing and alcohol."

"We want to be ahead of the curve on this," said Maribeth Ehasz, vice president of student development and enrollment services. "We don't want to wait for a catastrophe to occur. We want our Greek system to be as

strong as I know it can be."

Ehasz could not say how long groups will be suspended. But she is hopeful that at least some will be allowed to resume their activities by the end of the spring semester.

The decision prompted a flood of criticism from students at UCF and public universities statewide. Many took to Facebook minutes after the announcement to express their frustration.

Meanwhile, some anti-hazing experts praised UCF for taking strong steps to deal with a problem that affects colleges and universities nationwide.

Ehasz said the change was prompted by a recent string of hazing investigations. Just this month, the university has suspended two of its fraternities—Sigma Chi and Alpha Epsilon Pi—amid allegations of hazing and alcohol-related misconduct.

In December, the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity was placed on disciplinary probation after UCF determined it had been involved in hazing.

Over the past three years, UCF has found Greek organizations guilty of violating hazing rules three times and breaking alcohol-related rules 13 times, officials said Wednesday.

Sigma Chi is a repeat offender. In 2011, it was placed on disciplinary probation after freshman Ann Hefferin's death. Although witnesses said Hefferin, 18, had been drinking, and the fraternity acknowledged failing to prevent underage drinking at a party she attended, it was determined that Hefferin actually died of a rare bacterial infection.

Susan Lipkins, a New York psychologist and leading authority in campus conflict and violence, commended UCF. She said colleges have started taking hazing more seriously in recent years.

Some, including Cornell and Alfred universities in New York, have reacted to the often violent practice by suspending Greek activities or kicking fraternities off campus.

Schools, Lipkins said, also want to avoid the kind of media attention that overwhelmed Florida A&M University after the hazing death of drum major Robert Champion after the Florida Classic in Orlando in 2011.

"I think some of the universities are finally saying that hazing has to stop," she said. "They're acknowledging that it's going on and they cannot rely on the Greek organizations to self-police adequately."

Former Marine recruited to lead YSU football team defense

Steve Wilaj
SPORTS EDITOR

When head football coach Eric Wolford introduced former military sergeant-turned Penguins recruit Nate Cox on National Signing Day, he immediately issued a challenge.

"If you guys want to get froggy with him, go ahead," Wolford said in reference to Cox's past. "I challenge you."

With that, the respect Wolford has for Cox is clear. In fact, Cox said Wolford's and Youngstown State University's interest was apparent from the beginning.

"I talked to a lot of schools, but they really were the one that was most serious right off the bat," Cox said. "Coach Wolford just liked my background as far as being a little bit older and the leadership I can bring to the team."

In addition to Cox's impressive stat line at Santa Ana College, with 51 tackles and 6.5 sacks last season, Wolford said he is happy to add the intangibles that the 26-year-old defensive lineman provides to the YSU team.

"He's a unique guy that has tremendous leadership and likes to work hard," Wolford said. "He's just so much more mature than the majority of the players we deal with. I think he's going to bring some leadership to our defensive line."

The Penguins are hoping it will be similar to the effect he had at Santa Ana for the past two seasons.

"He was just a great guy to have for a couple years with a bunch of 18-, 19- and 20-year-olds," said Geoff Jones, head football coach at Santa Ana. "It was just great to have a guy who's in his mid-20s, been around the block and been in Afghanistan."

After almost six years in the U.S. Marine Corps, Cox was equally as grateful to have Jones and the Santa Ana Dons.

Returning to his home in Huntington Beach, Calif., from Afghanistan in 2010, Cox began his search for the right school. While academics were his first priority, football was a close second.

Eventually, Santa Ana became the



Nate Cox, who played at Santa Ana College last season, will join the Penguins next season to bolster their defensive line. Photo courtesy of Santa Ana College.

clear choice.

"We talked about what I had in mind, what I wanted to do and what the football program offered," Cox said. "Coach Jones just had open arms for me as far as really accepting where I came from and what I could bring to the table."

Cox joined the Dons in 2011. But the move from the battlefield to the gridiron posed its challenges.

"It was definitely a transition from running with a pack on your back every day with boots on, to going out there on the field and competing," Cox said. "I wouldn't say I had to learn it all over again, but just the level of talent from when I was in high school to even junior college — the speed of the game was just unreal at first."

Originally a linebacker at Santa Ana, Cox switched to defensive end midway through the season.

"A couple guys got hurt, so he went right in, and I think he got a sack on his

first play," Jones said. "He just leads with his tenacity, and he's a vocal leader."

Last season, Cox was voted team captain for the Dons. Jones said Cox played as well as anybody in the conference.

"I think he really made himself into a great football player," Jones said. "One of the great things about him is he makes everybody around him better. He'll make every single guy on that defense — especially in that defensive box — all better players. He'll just raise the entire level of the YSU defense."

Cox will get the chance to revamp a Penguins defensive line that lost a majority of its starters to graduation last season. He said Wolford and the coaching staff have asked him to be a leader on the defensive unit as well.

"The team here is great, and the guys here are awesome," Cox said. "So, I can't wait to just get back on the field and see what YSU football is all about."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Brandi Brown Appreciation Day planned for Saturday

Saturday, which has been designated Brandi Brown Appreciation Day, will feature a T-shirt giveaway during the women's basketball game at Beeghly Center. The T-shirts will be emblazoned with the YSU "Y" on the front and "Brown 42" on the back. The Penguins will host Wright State University at 2:05 p.m. on Saturday. Brown is YSU's career record holder in games started, free throws made and free throws attempted. In addition, she ranks second in career points, and is only 20 rebounds shy of breaking the career rebounds record. The Penguins will also host the University of Illinois Chicago on Thursday and Valparaiso University on Monday. Both games will begin at 7:05 p.m.

Wolford names new running backs coach

Eric Gallon has been named the YSU football team's running backs coach, head football coach Eric Wolford announced on Wednesday. Gallon is a former teammate of Wolford's at Kansas State University, and he most recently served as head football coach at George Jenkins High School in Florida. He was previously the GJHS football team's offensive coordinator.

PENGUIN SPOTLIGHT



JOHN SEAVER

Year: Senior
Hometown: Canfield High School
South Range
Event: Throws

John Seaver, a member of the men's track and field team, took first place in the shot put event during Sunday's Horizon League Indoor Track and Field Championships at the Watson and Tressel Training Site. Ever since his days at South Range High School, the current YSU senior has shined in the shot put event. In three of his four seasons, Seaver has logged top 10 finishes in every shot put attempt. After being sidelined for the 2012 outdoor season, Seaver came roaring back in the indoor season, capturing the HL's men's shot put title with a toss of 17.62 meters, his first solo collegiate crown. Seaver added a 10th place score of 14.30 meters in the weight throw. During high school, Seaver, whose major is integrated social studies education, lettered all four years, as well as set the Inter Tri-County League record in the shot put and the Ryan Jansson Memorial Invitational record in the discus. Seaver also qualified regionally in the discus and shot put competitions, and went to state for shot put.

Women's hoops set for three-game home stand

Cory Bartek
SPORTS REPORTER

Bob Boldon, head women's basketball coach, walked into Monday's press conference focused on the future rather than the past.

The Penguins suffered their fourth league loss Saturday at the hands of Loyola University Chicago. After tying at 58 and with less than two minutes remaining, they fell to a final score of 67-59.

Though it would have been easy for Boldon to blame the loss on the short 41-hour turnaround from Thursday's game against Cleveland State University, he made no excuses for his team's performance.

"We didn't play well enough to win," he said.

The Penguins have four regular season games remaining, three of which will be played at Beeghly Center over a five-day span.

They already played all four teams earlier in the season, coming away with three victories and a lone loss against Valparaiso University.

This time around, having a home-court advantage and not having to travel will certainly play into the Penguins' favor. However, Boldon isn't taking the competition lightly.

"Our challenge is that the second time we play people, we haven't been able to match their intensity," he said.

While Boldon said that Thursday's game against the University of Illinois at Chicago will be a tough match, he added that it's a challenge the

team will be ready for. However, it would take a "better effort" to come away with a victory against the Flames.

The Penguins have sole possession of second place in the Horizon League (18-7 overall, 8-4 HL). A win against UIC would guarantee YSU a finish of no worse than fourth in the league and a home game in the HL tournament.

"This weekend's very important for us to finish the work that we started back in the fall and throughout the nonconference and the beginning of the conference schedule," Boldon said.

Boldon said that while shooting inconsistencies may be the easiest thing for others to focus on when it comes to his team's deficiencies, he believes that the team hasn't been playing to its defensive potential.

"I think the last 10 days, our defensive effort has been right around average, and we've been able to do enough to win a couple of those games, and a couple times we haven't," he said.

With player Heidi Schlegel out for the UIC game, the Penguins will need contributions from various players. The last time UIC and YSU met, five Penguins were able to score more than seven points.

One of those players hoping to help ease the scoring load is junior Melissa Thompson, who matched her season high of 13 points in the last game against Loyola.

Thompson said it's important for both starters and bench players to pick up the slack



Melissa Thompson (23) shoots a 3-pointer during a game against the University of Akron at Beeghly Center earlier in the season. Photo courtesy of YSU Sports Information.

and chip in more than usual. "[Schlegel's] a big piece of the puzzle. She provides a lot of energy, defense, offense," Thompson said.

While taking games one at a time, Thompson said the team is still focused on keep-

ing its second place position in the league.

"We want to finish out with all wins. Every time we step on the court, our goal is to win," she said. "It's not to stick around or try not to lose. We want to win the game."